

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR WATER, WILDLIFE AND WORKING LANDS

YAKIMA RIVER BASIN INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

A Plan to Meet the Region's Water Needs

The Problem

- Current water supply does not meet instream or out-of-stream demand, including the aquatic demands for fish and wildlife and the out-of-stream needs of irrigation and municipal supply.
- These circumstances have created a significant deficit in water supply, and it's getting worse. As communities grow and climate change reduces supply by shrinking the snow-pack, the current water deficit will only worsen.



The Integrated Plan

After decades of fighting resulting in inaction, water users throughout the region put aside their differences to craft a water plan that meets everyone's needs. The Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan provides water for agriculture, fish, and communities by:

- Modifying water system operation and infrastructure.
- Building fish passage at six existing dams.
- Implementing enhanced water conservation projects.
- Creating additional groundwater and surface storage capacity.
- Enhancing and protecting habitat and increasing in-stream flows.
- Employing water marketing and banking.

The Benefits

The Integrated Plan provides both instream and out-of-stream benefits by:

- Providing more water for stream flows that fish need to survive.
- Building fish passage to allow salmon, steelhead, and bull trout to travel throughout the basin, and reestablishing what could be the largest sockeye run in the lower 48 after extirpation from the Yakima Basin over a century ago.
- Providing greater water supply reliability for farmers and communities.
- Securing the water that communities need to meet current and future demand.
- Protecting over 200,000 acres of currently unprotected forest, shrub steppe, and river habitat.
- Stretching the amount of water available by using it more efficiently.
- Enhancing habitat along the Yakima River and its tributaries.
- Implementing water marketing and banking so that water is more easily delivered when and where needed.

"The Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan is a product of extraordinary work and compromise, and it offers long-term benefits for the environment and economy."

- Lance Dickie, Seattle Times





The Cost

The total cost of all the projects in the Integrated Plan is projected to be approximately \$3.812 billion. That cost will be spread out over 30 years and will be shared by local, state, and federal governments and water users. An initial investment of \$45 million by the state for 15 early action projects would yield nearly \$90.7 million in economic benefit and create over 680 jobs.

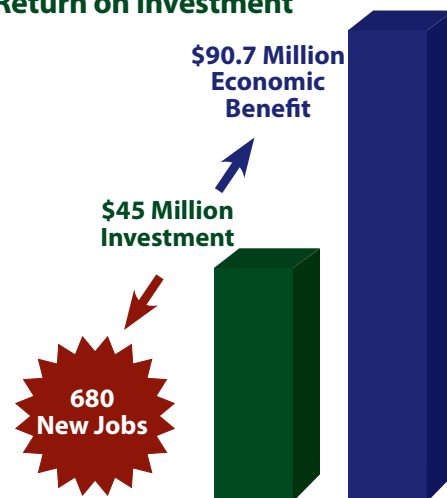
Support for the Integrated Plan

Support for the Integrated Plan is very broad, encompassing irrigators, conservationists, recreational organizations, business groups, Republican and Democratic party organizations, and tribal, local, state, and federal governments and agencies. Supporters include:

- American Rivers
- American Water Resources Association
- Back Country Horsemen of Washington
- Benton County
- Central Washington Democrats
- City of Cle Elum
- City of Ellensburg
- City of Grandview
- City of Mabton
- City of Sunnyside
- City of Tieton
- City of Toppenish
- City of Wapato
- City of Yakima
- Conservation Northwest
- Forterra
- Kennewick Irrigation District
- Kittitas County
- Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce
- Kittitas Reclamation District
- Mountains to Sound Greenway
- National Wildlife Federation
- NOAA Fisheries Service
- Port of Grandview
- Port of Sunnyside
- Roza Irrigation District
- Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Land
- The Wilderness Society
- The Yakama Nation
- Town of Naches
- Trout Unlimited
- Washington Department of Agriculture
- Washington Department of Ecology
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington Environmental Council
- Washington State Democrats
- Washington Trails Association
- Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board
- Yakima Basin Storage Alliance
- Yakima County
- Yakima County Republicans
- Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service



Early Action Projects Return on Investment



Questions?

Please give us a call.

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